a letter to the Chief Justice to see how pendency can be reduced. As far as the question of constituting a Bench is concerned, there is a convention which we follow. The State Chief Minister and the Chief Justice of the concerned State must recommend. If they recommend unanimously, we consider the case because otherwise there might be a controversy about it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Setting up of spinning and composite Textile mills in Punjab

*264. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of spinning mills and composite textile mills in Punjab;

(b) whether these are sufficient for the State in view of extensive cotton availability in the State;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up some more spinning mills in Punjab; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As on 31st March, 1992 there were 22 Spinning and 2 Composite/Man-made Textile Fibre Mills in Punjab.

(b) Cotton from Punjab is used by spinning mills all over the country apart from the mills in Punjab.

(c) and (d) Government does not set up Textile Mills on its own. Under the liberalised Industrial Policy no licence is required for setting up a mill. The National Co-operative Development Corporation assists in setting up of spinning mills in the cooperative sector and Punjab Government have approached NCDC in this regard.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: From the answer of the Minister it is now very clear that under the new economic policy, the Government has no control over industrialisation of any part of the country. For Punjab, we keep on hearing that there are pacakages under way, or it has been withheld, etc. etc. From the reply of the Minister we find that with regard to an item like cotton spinning or cotton mills for which the raw material availability is in abundance in Punjab, the Minister says that under the new policy they have no control and the private sector has to put up plants on its own and that Punjab Government have approached the National Co-operative Development Corporation. In other words, the Central Government has no responsibility for the industrialisation of Punjab. I want to know from the Miinster whether, in view of what he has stated in the answer, he will approach the Prime Minister or the Industry Minister to see that for special areas like Punjab, his Ministry is able to take some initiative to create employment opportunities there, if necessary, by re-amending the policy and going back to the old policy where backward areas could be given special attention. I want to know what exactly is the strategy of the Textile Ministry in respect of Punjab.

श्री अशोक गहलोत: उपसभापति महोदया, माननीय सदस्य ने जो भावना प्रकट की हैं, उसको मैंने नोट कर लिया है।

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: My second supplementary is, if the Minister can answer, what is the total cotton production in the country and what is the percentage grown in Punjab? Out of the total production of spun cotton in the country, what is the percentage produced in Punjab? If he has the figures, he can give now, otherwise he can send to me later. There is a glaring discrependancy with regard to Punjab, and if that is the attitude of the Government, then they should not talk of solving the problem of Punjab.

श्री अशोक गहलोत: पंजाब की फिगर्स मैं माननीय सदस्य को अलग से भिजवा दूंगा वैसे मैं माननीय सदस्य की जानकारी के लिये कहना चाहता हूं कि पंजाब में जो कोआपरेटिव मिलें काम कर रही हैं, उनमें

प्रोडक्शन पूरा हो रहा है, इसमें कोई दिक्कत नहीं है । फिर भी जो माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है कि प्रोडक्शन का परसन्टेज कितना है, इसको मैं बता दूंगा ।

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान : मेरा सवाल हो गया है, लेकिन जवाब पूरा नहीं आया । लेकिन थे इसके साथ यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जो प्रोडक्शन पंजाब में होता है, उसका कितना परसन्टेज पंजाब में कंज्यूम होता है, इसके बारे में भी मंत्री जी बतायें ।

उपसभापति : वह बता देंगे आपको भी । Next question. The question is limited to Punjab and I am not going outside; otherwise we will be going to every State. The question is limited to Punjab only. The pointedness of the question cannot be diluted. Dr. Kotaiah, I am not permitted it Please take your seat. I am not perfitting it.

Next question No. 265.

गरीबी रेखा से नीचे जीवन यापन करने वाले व्यक्तियों को दर्शाने वाले आंकड़ों का प्रतिशत

*265. **श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :**
डा० जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन :†

क्या योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार के पास उपलब्ध नवीनतम सूचना के अनुसार देश में लगभग 30% जनता गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे जीवन यापन कर रही है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि दो वर्षों पहले कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय ने यह दावा किया था कि गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे जीवन यापन करने वालों की संख्या, जो 1984–95 में 36.900 थी, 1989–90 के अंत तक घटकर 25.6% हो गई थी ;

(ग) यदि हां,, तो योजना आयोग ने आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के लिये गरीबी उन्मूलन की स्कीमों हेतु उक्त दो आंकड़ों से किस आंकड़े को आधार माना है ; और

(घ) उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTR YOF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) It is a fact that the number of people living below the poverty line in the country in 1987-88 was uearly 30 per cent of the otal population according to the latest available information i.e. for 1987-88. Information for the period after 1987-88 is not yet available.

The Ministry of programme Implementation had stated in their Annual Report for 1989-90 that the Seventh Plan envisaged a reduction of poverty ratio from 36.9 per cent of the total population as on 1st April, 1985 to 25.8 per cent by the end of the plan period i.e. 1989-90. But this 25.8 per cent was the target to be achieved by 1989-90. Whether this was actually achieved cannot be known until we have got the required information for the year 1989-90. As already stated above, the figure of around 30 per cent of the population below poverty line, as estamated by the Planning Commission, relates to the year 1987-88 and this is the latest year for which the figures are available. The Ministry of Programme Implementation do not make any estimate of people below the poverty line. It is the Planning Commission which makes such estimate. There is no contradiction between the two figures, as one relates to the target to be achieved by 1989-90 and the other relates to the actual figure of the people below the poverty line in 1987-88.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Madam. in reply to my uestion, the hon.

†सभा में यह प्रश्न डा० जितेन्द्र कुमार पूछा गया ।